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Potato Stocks

Agricultural Statistics Board
National Agricultural Statistics Service

United States Department of Agriculture
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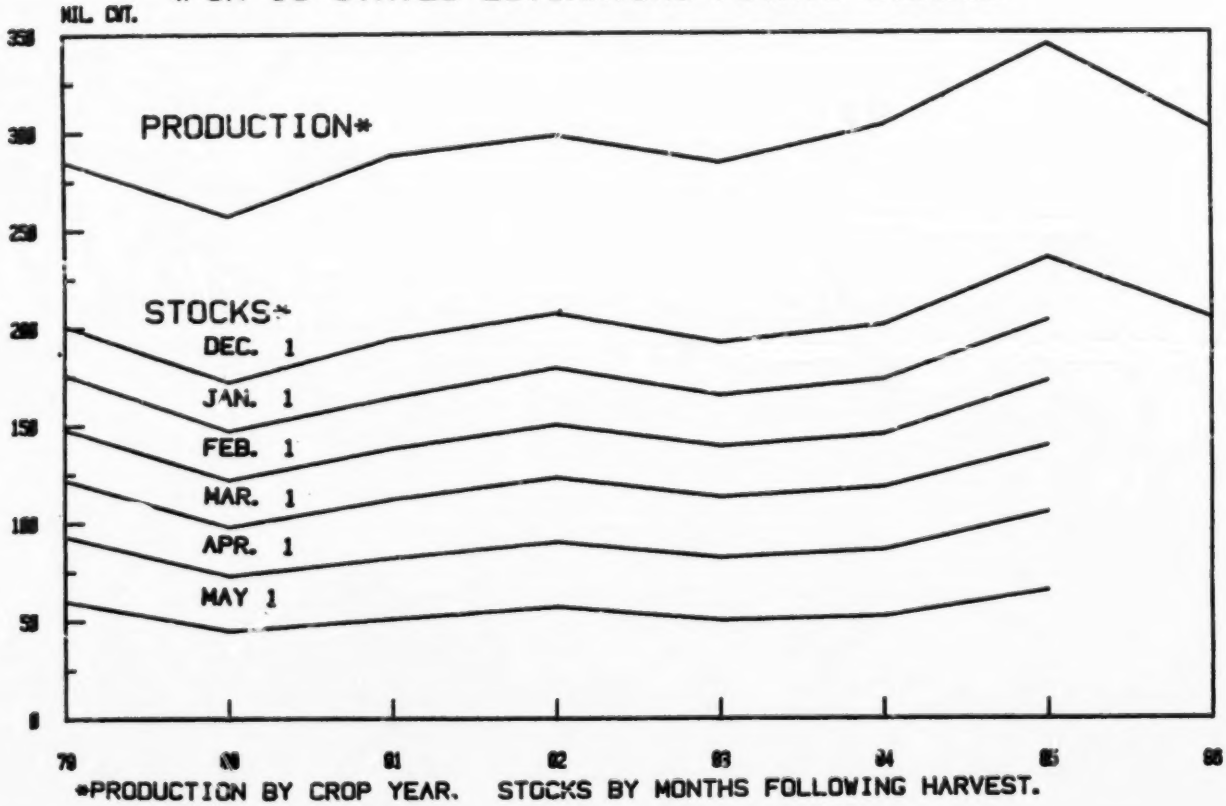
POTATO STOCKS DOWN 13 PERCENT

Storage of fall potatoes in the 15 major States totaled 204 million cwt on December 1, 1986. This is down 13 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 68 percent of fall production this year the same as last year. Russets were the main type stored accounting for 79 percent of the total in the 11 major States; whites made up 18 percent and reds, 3 percent.

(Comments continued on page 8)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS
(FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST.

Pot 1-2 (12-86)

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* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent. *
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TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
				1,000 CWT			
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	284,940	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	256,518	172,030	147,010	122,065	97,680	72,660	44,546
1981	287,710	193,610	164,380	137,820	111,780	82,270	50,760
1982	298,031	206,525	178,980	150,200	122,500	90,105	57,305
1983	284,344	192,150	165,330	138,900	112,730	81,740	50,365
1984	303,384	201,410	173,380	144,760	118,400	86,440	52,465
1985	343,984	235,475	202,800	171,510	138,720	104,540	65,380
1986	301,001	204,180					

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1985 AND 1986 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
					1,000 CWT			
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1985-86	17,830	22,980	26,660	32,170	37,910	43,240	55,220
	1986-87	13,210						
MAINE 2/	1985-86	2,215	2,935	3,845	4,630	5,540	6,280	8,660
	1986-87	2,120						
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1985-86	21,725	25,665	29,450	34,450	39,990	45,110	57,430
	1986-87	21,530						
OTHER STATES 3/	1985-86	6,470	7,990	9,900	12,020	13,860	16,095	22,245
	1986-87	6,240						
TOTAL	1985-86	48,240	59,570	69,855	83,270	97,300	110,725	143,555
	1986-87	43,100						

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK, OR WIS. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK, AND WIS.

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TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1985 AND DECEMBER 1, 1986

STATE	CROP OF 1985			CROP OF 1986		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1985	DEC 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1986	DEC 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	8,385	5,500	66	7,110	4,700	66
COLO	17,920	14,600	81	18,150	13,600	75
IDAHO	102,515	74,500	73	87,320	67,500	77
MAINE	28,215	22,700	80	21,000	15,500	74
MICH	12,100	8,000	66	9,350	5,600	60
MINN	14,145	11,000	78	13,650	10,100	74
MONT	1,890	1,600	85	2,233	2,150	96
NEBR	2,106	1,750	83	1,794	1,550	86
N Y - L I	3,870	2,000	52	2,492	600	24
- UPSTATE	6,375	3,700	58	5,288	2,500	47
N DAK	23,630	18,800	80	21,600	15,500	72
OHIO	2,465	800	32	2,377	680	29
OREG	26,888	18,500	69	23,172	17,000	73
PA	5,720	4,025	70	5,160	3,400	66
WASH	63,630	33,500	53	60,180	32,300	54
WIS	24,130	14,500	60	20,125	11,500	57
15 STATE TOTAL	343,984	235,475	68	301,001	204,180	68

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.1 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 204 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.1 percent or approximately 4.29 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.6 percent or approximately 7.35 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1976-85) record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimates and the final estimates. Using stocks again as an example, changes between the December 1 estimate and the final estimate during the 10 years have averaged 3.36 million cwt, ranging from 80 thousand to 5.82 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the December 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years for both production and stocks.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 FALL POTATO ESTIMATES

ESTIMATE	ROOT MEAN SQUARE ERROR			TEN YEAR RECORD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEC 1 AND FINAL ESTIMATE				
	PERCENT	90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL		QUANTITY			NUMBER OF YEARS	
		PERCENT	QUANT	AVG	SMALL	LARGE	BELOW FINAL	ABOVE FINAL
			MIL CWT	MILLION CWT				
STOCKS	2.1	3.6	7.35	3.36	.08	5.82	9	1
PRODUCTION	1.6	2.7	8.39	4.36	.92	6.68	9	1

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TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS, DECEMBER 1, 1986, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	7		93	100
IDAHO		1/ 2/	100	100
MAINE		70	30	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	20	33	47	100
N Y		1/ 3/ 100		100
N DAK	20	59	21	100
OREG			1/ 2/ 100	100
PA		3/ 100		100
WASH			1/ 2/ 100	100
WIS	6	15	79	100
11 STATE TOTAL	3	18	79	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

1986 POTATO OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEY

The Agricultural Statistics Board conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1985. Sample plots were located in potato fields that were selected on a random basis using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements from these fields just prior to and immediately after harvest.

The sample data from the objective yield surveys shown in tables 5 and 6 are presented to provide current information about the crop and are not official estimates.

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TABLE 5: POTATOES: HARVEST LOSS BY TYPE OF POTATOES, 1985-86 1/

STATE AND YEAR	ROUND REDS	ROUND WHITES	RUSSETS	ALL TYPES
	CWT PER ACRE			
COLO 1985			23	23
1986	14		21	20
IDAHO 1985			27	27
1986			27	27
MAINE 1985		19	27	22
1986		21	26	23
MICH 1985		22	26	25
1986		24	19	22
MINN 1985	20	24	32	25
1986	16	19	24	21
N Y 1985		15		18
1986		20		20
N DAK 1985	15	30	33	31
1986	22	34	27	31
OREG 1985			18	18
1986			22	22
PA 1985		13		12
1986		17		16
WASH 1985			20	18
1986	2/	13	21	21
WIS 1985	23	30	18	22
1986	18	23	22	21

1/ POTATOES LEFT IN THE FIELD AT TIME OF HARVEST. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

TABLE 6: POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS PER ACRE, BY TYPE, 1985-86 1/

STATE AND YEAR	ROUND REDS		ROUND WHITES		RUSSETS	
	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. HILLS PER ACRE
COLO 1985	7	12,764			70	12,174
1986	6	12,914			73	12,444
IDAHO 1985			3	12,512	284	12,543
1986	2/	2/	2/	2/	309	12,478
MAINE 1985			112	14,778	76	11,373
1986	2/	2/	100	13,583	85	10,970
MICH 1985	2/	2/	73	12,145	35	11,868
1986			61	12,654	39	11,493
MINN 1985	26	10,438	58	10,286	41	11,731
1986	31	9,173	39	9,557	53	11,080
N Y 1985	2/	2/	96	13,470	5	12,289
1986	3	10,976	110	13,109	9	11,924
N DAK 1985	24	10,137	79	10,250	10	9,516
1986	23	9,647	90	9,966	25	9,605
OREG 1985	2/	2/	6	12,301	143	14,284
1986			2/	2/	151	14,298
PA 1985	3	13,583	83	13,118	2/	2/
1986	3	14,930	75	12,745	2/	2/
WASH 1985	2/	2/	13	13,703	168	13,829
1986	3	15,884	9	14,273	166	14,212
WIS 1985	15	12,791	32	12,598	93	10,904
1986	21	12,703	28	13,052	90	10,909

1/ BASED ON COUNTS FROM OBJECTIVE YIELD MEASUREMENTS. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

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TABLE 7. FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

STATE	AREA PLANTED			AREA HARVESTED		
	1984	1985	1986	1984	1985	1986
	1,000 ACRES					
CALIF	19.6	21.7	18.0	18.2	21.5	18.0
COLO	53.5	56.5	55.0	53.0	56.0	55.0
CONN	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.0
IDAHO-S W (10 CO)	28.0	30.0	17.0	28.0	29.0	17.0
-OTHER CO	302.0	325.0	293.0	297.0	316.0	290.0
IND	3.2	2.8	4.9	3.0	2.6	4.5
MAINE	94.0	100.0	85.0	89.0	99.0	84.0
MASS	3.4	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.3	2.9
MICH	45.0	46.0	41.0	44.0	44.0	34.0
MINN	77.1	78.5	72.0	72.5	69.0	70.0
MONT	7.5	7.9	7.8	7.4	7.0	7.7
NEBR	8.4	8.5	7.1	8.0	7.8	6.9
NEV	10.0	9.0	8.0	10.0	9.0	8.0
N Y - LONG ISLAND	13.6	13.0	9.0	13.5	12.9	8.9
- UPSTATE	26.0	26.0	24.0	25.5	25.5	22.5
N DAK	136.0	145.0	128.0	133.0	139.0	120.0
OHIO	9.5	9.5	10.2	9.3	9.3	9.7
OREG - MALHEUR CO	11.5	11.0	7.0	11.0	10.2	6.8
- OTHER CO	46.5	51.0	46.0	45.5	50.8	45.2
PA	22.0	22.5	22.0	21.5	22.0	21.5
R I	2.7	2.5	1.6	2.6	2.5	1.6
S DAK	15.0	14.0	13.0	13.0	12.0	12.0
UTAH	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4
VT	.3	.2	.1	.3	.2	.1
WASH	116.0	127.0	119.0	115.0	126.0	118.0
WIS	62.0	65.0	59.0	61.0	63.5	57.5
WYO	3.3	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.0	2.1
TOTAL	1,124.1	1,186.3	1,060.2	1,094.2	1,147.0	1,031.3

	YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1984	1985	1986	1984	1985	1986
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
CALIF	400	390	395	7,280	8,385	7,110
COLO	325	320	330	17,225	17,920	18,150
CONN	225	250	225	315	350	225
IDAHO-S W (10 CO)	335	375	360	9,380	10,875	6,120
-OTHER CO	260	290	280	77,220	91,640	81,200
IND	250	240	220	750	624	990
MAINE	240	285	250	21,360	28,215	21,000
MASS	200	250	230	580	825	667
MICH	285	275	275	12,540	12,100	9,350
MINN	190	205	195	13,775	14,145	13,650
MONT	260	270	290	1,924	1,890	2,233
NEBR	310	270	260	2,480	2,106	1,794
NEV	330	345	350	3,300	3,105	2,800
N Y - LONG ISLAND	265	300	280	3,577	3,870	2,492
- UPSTATE	260	250	235	6,630	6,375	5,288
N DAK	155	170	180	20,615	23,630	21,600
OHIO	260	265	245	2,418	2,465	2,377
OREG - MALHEUR CO	360	370	350	3,960	3,774	2,380
- OTHER CO	430	455	460	19,565	23,114	20,792
PA	240	260	240	5,160	5,720	5,160
R I	230	280	260	598	700	416
S DAK	140	175	195	1,820	2,100	2,340
UTAH	270	255	275	1,728	1,658	1,760
VT	210	235	200	63	47	20
WASH	495	505	510	56,925	63,630	60,180
WIS	350	380	350	21,350	24,130	20,125
WYO	250	245	255	550	245	536
U S	286	308	301	313,088	353,638	310,755

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FALL PRODUCTION DOWN 12 PERCENT

Fall potato production is estimated at 311 million cwt (14.1 million metric tons) in 1986, down 12 percent from last year and 1 percent short of 1984 output. Area harvested totaled 1.03 million acres (417 thousand hectares), down 10 percent from last year and 6 percent below 1984. The average yield came to 301 cwt per acre, 7 cwt below last year's record but 15 cwt above two years ago.

The December production estimate is up 1 percent from the November 1 forecast because of larger-than-expected crops in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and California.

Production in the SEVEN EASTERN STATES is estimated at 35.3 million cwt, down 24 percent from last year and 8 percent below 1984. Harvested acreage dropped 15 percent from last year and yields were down 11 percent. Harvest in Maine was difficult with excessive rainfall and some frost damage. Rains also slowed Upstate New York harvest. Pennsylvania yields were good, but below last year.

EIGHT CENTRAL STATES produced 72.2 million cwt of potatoes in 1986, down 11 percent from last year and 5 percent below 1984. Area for harvest declined 9 percent, while the average yield was down slightly from last year. Heavy rains in Michigan, Wisconsin, and North Dakota knocked out several thousand acres during the critical harvest time. Potatoes that were harvested went into storage in pretty good shape.

The NINE WESTERN STATES produced 203 million cwt of potatoes this year, 10 percent below last year, but 2 percent above 1984. Area harvested was down 9 percent from last year, while the average yield edged near last year's pace setter. Harvest in all of the Western States went relatively smoothly when compared with the 1985 experience. Idaho production of 87.3 million cwt was near two years ago, but 15 percent below last year.

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DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to December 1 in the 15 States totaled 96.8 million cwt this year compared with 109 million cwt last year and 102 million cwt in 1984. Shrinkage and loss were considerably less and made up 15.2 million cwt of the movement compared with 20.4 million cwt last year and 16.1 million cwt in 1984.

PROCESSING in the 8 major States totaled 43.1 million cwt so far this year compared with 48.2 million cwt last year and 47.3 million cwt two years ago. Idaho processing started slowly, while other areas are near last year's pace.

Stocks in the THREE EASTERN STATES fell 32 percent from last December 1 to 22.0 million cwt, and were 15 percent below 2 years ago. Maine stocks of 15.5 million cwt were down 32 percent from a year ago, after a difficult, frost damaging harvest. New York storages contained 3.10 million cwt, down 46 percent from last year. Pennsylvania stocks of 3.40 million cwt were off 16 percent.

The SIX CENTRAL STATES stored 44.9 million cwt of potatoes on December 1 this year, down 18 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. North Dakota at 15.5 million cwt was down 18 percent; Minnesota at 10.1 million cwt was off 8 percent; Wisconsin stored 11.5 million cwt, down 21 percent; and Michigan at 5.60 million cwt was down 30 percent.

Storage in the SIX WESTERN STATES was set at 137 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year, but 9 percent above 1984. Idaho stocks were 67.5 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year ago. Washington at 32.3 million cwt was down 4 percent; while Oregon at 17.0 million cwt was off 3 percent. Colorado stocks, totalling 13.6 million cwt were down 7 percent, and California at 4.70 million cwt was down 15 percent.

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